

California Trails and Greenways Conference 2010

Pre-Conference Field Workshop

Rural Trails Tour of Northern San Luis Obispo Coast

The northern coast of San Luis Obispo County from Hearst Ranch to Montana de Oro State Park offers wonderful trails and tremendous scenic and natural resources. This coastal strip includes public lands under a variety of ownerships and trail systems in various stages of completion including the California Coastal Trail. While there are many trails open to the public, there also is great potential for additional trails and trail connections. This trip will acquaint you with several trail opportunities and provide insights into trail planning in spectacular, but sensitive areas. You will see trails for all kinds of users which have been constructed using many different techniques and materials.



This all day field trip departs Cambria Pines Lodge at 8:00 am and returns at about 4:00 pm. A box lunch will be provided. You will be traveling by bus and will be stopping often to take walks on trails. Walks will generally be short, but if any seem too long there is an option to stay on the bus. The first stop on the tour will be at the northern end of the tour route at Piedras Blancas Motel which is now in State Park System ownership. At this stop, speakers from California State Parks, Caltrans, the Coastal Conservancy, Coastwalk and local government will discuss recent land acquisitions and actual and proposed trails in the area.

The bus will then proceed down coast with stops to view the Elephant Seal boardwalk trail, Hearst Memorial State Beach (discussion of access to the Hearst San Simeon shoreline and interpretive center, Leffingwell Landing to walk along Moonstone State Beach, the Fiscalini Ranch trails, Estero Bluffs State Park, and lunch (box) at the Morro Bay Harbor Walk.



After lunch, the tour will resume and head further south to Montana de Oro State Park for a discussion of the Hazard Peak Trail, connections from Montana de Oro to Avila, the PGE Buchon Trail, and accessible trails in the area.

The planned itinerary for April 21, 2010 follows:

7:30 am-Assemble to board bus at Cambria Pines Lodge

8:00 am-Bus leaves for Piedras Blancas

8:30 am-Piedras Blancas Motel

9:00 am –Various stops along the coast between Piedras Blancas and Morro Bay

Noon- Lunch (included) at Morro Bay Harbor Walk

1:00 pm-Bus leaves for Montana de Oro

2:45 pm-Bus leaves for Cambria Pines Lodge



The bus will be with you all day with several short hikes. Restrooms will be available at a number of locations throughout the day. Most walking will be on boardwalks or well maintained trails, but be prepared to also walk on soft trails with uneven surfaces. Grades will be gentle. Be sure to wear hiking or comfortable walking shoes. Generally weather is nice in April but be prepared for cold, wet, foggy, windy or warm weather. Layer your clothing and bring a day pack to carry extra clothes and water. Sunscreen is advisable as portions of the trails will be in direct sun light. The field trip will be held regardless of weather.



The San Luis Obispo Coast is beautiful in any weather!